

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

November 15, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Mayor-Elect Guinta.

A moment of silent prayer was observed. Mayor Baines asked that people keep in their thoughts and prayers Steve Tellier, a great public servant, community leader, Boy Scout leader, a true hero in our community to so many young people and he served this community with distinction for so many years. I have lost a personal friend and a colleague. Also, we lost a quiet hero, Michelle Morris, this past week. Michelle fought a gallant battle with cancer. Her mom is pleased today that the first step has been taken for the passage of Michelle's Law, which will erase this egregious act of not allowing somebody in Michelle's situation to have the dignity of health insurance coverage at the most critical time in her life. We keep Michelle in our thoughts and prayers this evening and a special prayer for her courageous family who have fought this battle with dignity and respect for those who need the help of their government.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Claire Dursco, Kidder Street, Manchester stated:

I am here because of the property at the corner of Bridge and Elm. I know that we had a number of our residents appear at your last meeting and I am the only one available tonight so I am here to see if anything has transpired since then to help us with our problems with that property, if anyone has visited the site, especially in the evening like now when I just left home to see exactly what we are putting up with with the garage lights. I didn't know if anything had been done since then. It is really an eyesore.

Mayor Baines stated we can talk to you after the public hearing.

Alderman Lopez asked would it be permissible to ask the Health Officer to do his presentation at this time instead of waiting until 7:30 PM by unanimous consent.

The Board unanimously voted to allow the Health Officer to make his presentation at this time.

Fred Rusczek, Health Officer, stated I am here just to give an update on this year's flu situation. It seems like every year for the past three years we have had some issues with the flu. This year we are getting messages in the media and we are finding that a number of people are trying to sort out the difference between the three of them. One of the issues is, and what is the most important issue is getting the seasonal flu vaccine out to people at high risk. For the seasonal flu vaccination, the Health Department continues to work with the area healthcare providers in making certain that when the vaccine comes in that we get that vaccine disseminated to the high risk people in the community first and we will cover those in a minute. The Health Department's own shipment of its vaccine – like every year we are anticipating 2,000 doses of vaccine, is currently held up. We purchase our vaccine through the State Health Department on the State Health Bid and the manufacturer for the State Bid is Kyron Corporation and they have indicated that they it has delayed the shipment and is also anticipating that they are not going to be able to fill orders for the full amount so we are anticipating somewhat less than our 2,000 doses. That being said, everything that we are hearing this year for the seasonal flu vaccine is that there still will be an ample supply. We are fielding around 100 calls a day around the flu vaccine. The other piece that we are hearing about is the prospect in the world of a world wide flu pandemic from avian flu. We are bringing that up today because I think it is important to separate the two. When we talk about the seasonal flu, that is a concern in itself and leads to the deaths of 30,000 to 50,000 Americans every year and it is very important to the health of our public. The flu pandemic is something that is likely going to occur at some point in the future although there is no indication that it is going to occur any time soon. The Manchester Health Department has been working with healthcare providers in developing a community response plan for a flu epidemic and our first community flu pandemic was prepared in 1999 after this avian flu occurred in 1997 in China. That plan has been updated and hospitals and major healthcare providers, police, fire and others have been tremendous in working with us on that plan. Again, the seasonal flu vaccine and the avian flu are two separate vaccines. The seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against the avian flu. The third thing that I wish to point out today is this weekend, this Saturday, the City of Manchester and the Health Department are participating in a mass vaccination drill under the direction of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Bureau of Emergency Management and the Department of Safety. In this drill the purpose is to test our capabilities to respond to a real life concern by quickly establishing and operating a large-scale clinic. I commend the state planning process

because what they determined to do was to do this drill in November as a means of also distributing flu vaccinations. So on Saturday this week there will be a mass vaccination clinic at Parkside Junior High. I will ask Tim Soucy to come forward and tell you a little bit more about this drill. For the drill, they are looking to provide 2,000 vaccination doses to the high-risk people.

Tim Soucy, Chief of Environmental Health and Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, stated as Fred had stated this coming Saturday we will be engaged in a statewide exercise and the role of the Manchester Health Department and the City of Manchester is to open up this mass prophylaxis clinic at Parkside and provide 2,000 free flu vaccines to high risk individuals. This has been a partnership of not only the City – the City's Health Department, Police Department and Fire Department but key community partners like the Elliot, CMC, Dartmouth-Hitchcock, the VA Medical Center and several others like the Red Cross. We are very proud that we are able to stand up and staff this clinic in anticipation of providing that level of vaccination to the community. Just to echo what Fred was saying because of the delay in vaccine that is arriving in the state, we have been asked and I should mention that there are two other communities participating in the statewide exercise – Portsmouth and Colebrook, to limit the vaccine that we are giving to the highest risk population and those folks are people that are age 65 years and older, particularly those with a specific chronic medical condition, persons age 18 to 64 with specific chronic medical conditions such as COPD, diabetes, any type of a chronic disease, women who are or will be pregnant during the flu season, residents of long-term care facilities, healthcare workers who provide direct patient care and out-of-home care givers and household contacts of children less than six months of age. I just want to reiterate that we will not be providing pediatric doses. There is not a pediatric vaccine shortage for the flu vaccine this year. The original press releases that were issued opened the clinic to everyone 18 years and older but once again because of the shortage that is anticipated we are requesting that only high risk individuals, those that we just listed, attend the clinic.

Alderman Thibault asked could you give us the time that this going to happen at Parkside.

Mr. Soucy answered the clinic is going to run from 8 AM until 4 PM. It will be staffed internally by a number of clinical and non-clinical staff. Manchester Police, with the assistance of Goffstown Police, will be providing traffic control and security for the clinic as well and a tremendous amount of training has gone into the clinic. We anticipate it to be very successful.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk